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BATMAN™

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TOKYO. 1946.

♪ YOU ARE FAR FROM ME TONIGHT, MY DEAR... ♪ IN FEARFUL PARTS...

♪ ...BUT BE BRAVE FOR ME TONIGHT, MY DEAR... ♪ BECAUSE EVERY HEART...

♪ THAT CARES FOR YOU TONIGHT, MY DEAR... ♪ SHINES DOWN ON YOU...

♪ ...IN THE LIGHT OF THE PALE, PALE MOON.

♪ WATCHING OVER YOU TONIGHT, MY DEAR. ♪ IN THE LIGHT OF THE PALE, PALE MOON.

GOTHAM CITY.
SIX YEARS AGO...

KEEP FIRING! AND FEEL FREE TO GO FOR HIS HEAD!

UNH!

NICE TRY, FREAK! BUT WE WERE WARNED ABOUT YOUR TACTICS. WE CAME PREPARED, SEE?

MASKS, BOYS!

CAVE, CAVE, ARE YOU THERE?!

SIR →ZZZZT← IMPOSSIBLE →ZZZZT←

DAMMIT, COME IN!

CAVE, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, BUT I'M GOING HIGH! I'LL BE--

NOW WHEN HE TRIES FOR THE RAFTERS WITH THAT YO-YO GUN OF HIS...

...YOU SHOOT HIM RIGHT OUT OF THE SKY...*EYES HIGH, FELLAS. EYES HIGH.*

CAVE, DAMN IT! SOMEONE SET ME UP! THE POLICE, THEY'RE ON TO EVERYTH--

I HEAR HIM, SIR! HE'S *CLOSE!* MY POSITION IS BY THE--

--UNH!

CAVE, DO YOU COPY?! *CAVE!*

*THE **BOAT**! HE'S GOING FOR THE BOAT, COMMISSIONER!*

THE BOAT, *eh?* HEY, BATMAN. IF YOU'RE LISTENING, I HAVE A *QUESTION* FOR YOU...

...HOW DO YOU LIKE THE *CANDY* I LEFT YOU?

SOON AS THE SMOKE CLEARS, *OPEN FIRE.*

BOOM

POLICE

THAT'S IT...

...DRIVE HIM RIGHT BACK INTO THE MAW.

AND YOU'RE BACK!

YOU WANT TO GO DOWN WITH YOUR *VICTIMS,* IS THAT IT?

YOUR BONES, THEIR BONES...

WE DON'T SEE HIM, SIR. BUT HE HAS TO BE SOMEWHERE CL--

I HEARD A SPLASH! THIS WAY, THIS WAY!

IN THE DIVING POOL! THERE, THERE, THERE!

"ALL RIGHT, FELLAS, IF HE DARES TO COME UP FOR AIR, YOU BOYS MAKE HIM *REAL POROUS.* HE'S GOT NOWHERE TO GO!"

GASP!

CAVE -KOFF-... CAVE...IF YOU CAN HEAR ME--

BATMAN! STOP WHAT YOU'RE DOING...

...AND GET IN THE BOAT.

POLICE

CAVE, COME IN. CAVE!

IT'S A MILE TO SHORE. THEY'LL FIND YOU BEFORE YOU MAKE IT A QUARTER OF THAT DISTANCE.

GCPD

DAMMIT, HE'S NOT HERE! COMB THE RIVER, COMB IT, COMB IT, COMB IT! *NOW!*

YOUR CALL.

POLICE

YOU OUGHT TO TAKE THAT MASK OFF BEFORE IT BURNS YOUR EYE OUT.

ALL RIGHT, HERE.

POLICE

LOOK AT THE PRESCRIPTION. I'M PRACTICALLY ***BLIND*** WITHOUT THEM. KEEP THEM.

BUT BE MY EYES WHILE I DRIVE THIS THING THROUGH THE STORM, OR WE BOTH END UP WET AND ***DEAD.***

THE POLICE. HOW DID THEY KNOW I'D BE THERE?

THE RIDDLER. HE SENT THE DEPARTMENT A NOTE ABOUT YOU. SAID YOU WERE ALLIES UP UNTIL RECENTLY, BUT NOW HE'D HAD ENOUGH OF YOU.

HE TOLD US WHERE YOU'D SHOW UP, HOW YOU'D ACT...GAVE LOEB THE EXCUSE HE WANTED TO DECLARE FULL-ON ***WAR*** ON YOU.

THEN WHY HELP ME?

I DON'T KNOW. RESTORE BALANCE TO THE UNIVERSE, MAYBE. AFTER ALL, YOU SAVED MY LIFE AT A.C.E. CHEMICAL. KNOCKED ME OUT OF THE WAY OF THAT BEAM.

I WOULD HAVE SAVED ***ANYONE.*** BELIEVE ME, IT WASN'T PERSONAL.

Heh. THAT'S MY POINT. NOT MANY PEOPLE IN THIS CITY WORK THAT WAY. AND I THINK WE CAN ***HELP*** EACH OTHER.

WHY? WHY SHOULD I LISTEN TO ***YOU?***

...

BECAUSE OF ***BRUCE WAYNE.***

WHAT?

WAYNE'S COMING BACK TO GOTHAM...IT STARTED SOMETHING FOR ME.

SEE, I MET HIM ONCE, WHEN HE WAS A KID. HE'D SKIPPED SCHOOL AND WE GOT THE CALL TO GET HIM. WE PICKED HIM UP, TOOK HIM BACK TO THE STATION FOR HIS FOLKS.

ON THE WAY, MY PARTNER AND I, WE MADE THE USUAL ROUNDS OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD, CHECKING IN WITH SHOP OWNERS.

"WAYNE...HE SAW ME GET A GIFT. A *COAT.*

"HE ASKED ME ABOUT IT, AND I TOLD HIM THE PEOPLE OF GOTHAM JUST LOVE US, BECAUSE WE KEEP THEM *SAFE.*

"AND THE KID. HE GAVE ME THIS...*LOOK.*

"IT WAS ONLY MY THIRD WEEK IN GOTHAM. I'D JUST MOVED HERE FROM CHICAGO, WHERE THINGS HAD BEEN VERY *UGLY.*

"SO UGLY, I GUESS, THAT I WAS STILL TRYING TO BE HOPEFUL ABOUT THIS PLACE. TO SEE IT THE WAY IT WAS BEING PRESENTED TO ME. BY THE DEPARTMENT, BY RECRUITMENT. THE WAY I *WANTED* IT TO BE FOR BARBARA AND JAMES.

"I'D ALMOST *FOOLED* MYSELF, TOO, DURING THOSE FIRST COUPLE WEEKS. I'D ALMOST GOTTEN THERE...UNTIL THAT MOMENT IN THE CAR, WHEN I SAW THE *HOPE* IN WAYNE'S FACE.

"IT *KILLED* IT FOR ME. IT JUST KILLED THE WHOLE ILLUSION.

"I *HAD* TO KNOW. SO THAT EVENING, BEFORE MY SHIFT STARTED, I WENT TO ONE OF THE STORES, THE TAILOR SHOP.

"JUST TO... *SEE."*

"I'D LEARN LATER THAT THE DOGFIGHT WAS JUST THE *TIP* OF THE ICEBERG. I KNEW IT THEN, OF COURSE, BUT AT THAT MOMENT ALL I COULD SEE WERE THE *ANIMALS.*

"THEY KEPT THE DOGS IN *ELECTRIC CAGES.*

"THE FLOORS SENT LOW-VOLTAGE SHOCKS THROUGH THEIR PAWS DAY IN AND OUT, DRIVING THE ANIMALS *CRAZY* UNTIL THEY WERE SET LOOSE ON EACH OTHER.

"CORRIGAN WAS THERE, PARRA, LYNCH...THE PLACE WAS *FULL* OF COPS AND CRIMINALS, LAUGHING AND JOKING AS THEY WATCHED SOME BEATEN-DOWN ANIMALS *KILL* EACH OTHER."

WELL, LOOK AT THIS! IT'S JIMBO! WELCOME, PARTNER! GO AHEAD AND PLACE YOUR BET!

M MARTS

STOP THIS NOW, CORRIGAN, OR I GO TO LOEB!

HAHAHA HAHAHA HAHA

GO? JUST STICK AROUND. HE'LL BE HERE IN AN HOUR TO COLLECT HIS CUT! GOOD OLD COMMISH PRACTICALLY ROBS US POOR BOYS *BLIND.*

...

THEN HOW ABOUT I GO TO THE DAMN *PRESS?* HOW ABOUT I GIVE THEM AN EXCLUSIVE ABOUT EVERY CROOKED THING GOING ON UNDER LOEB'S WATCH?

HOW ABOUT YOU *DO.*

AND HOW ABOUT WE MAKE THIS BET A LITTLE MORE *INTERESTING?*

"I KEPT *SCREAMING* TO THEM, YELLING THAT I HAD A DAUGHTER, A LITTLE GIRL NAMED *BARBARA* TO LOOK OUT FOR, AND A LITTLE BOY NAMED *JAMES.*

"BUT THEY DIDN'T LISTEN. THE MATH-MAN HAD GIVEN ME THREE-TO-ONE TO SURVIVE.

"AND EVERYONE THERE, THEY JUST KEPT CHEERING AND *CHEERING!*

" 'COME ON!' THEY YELLED. 'YOU CAN DO IT! YOU *GOT* THIS!"

"I REMEMBER IT TOOK ME A MOMENT THROUGH THE PAIN AND MY OWN SCREAMS TO REALIZE...

"...THEY WERE CHEERING ON THE *DOGS.*"

"AT THE END, CORRIGAN WENT AROUND COLLECTING THE MONEY FROM EVERYONE. CHASTISING PEOPLE FOR BETTING AGAINST HIS BOY.

"FOR THINKING A PROTÉGÉ OF DAN CORRIGAN'S WOULDN'T COME OUT ON *TOP.*

"I GOT UP OFF THE GROUND...

"...AND I PUT MY GUN TO HIS HEAD, AND I SWEAR...I WAS *THIS* CLOSE...

"...AND YOU KNOW WHAT HE SAID TO ME? HE SAID, 'I BET ON YOU TO *LIVE* TONIGHT, JIMBO. YOU THINK ABOUT *THAT.*'

"THEN HE REMINDED ME ABOUT MY LITTLE GIRL, BARBARA, AND MY LITTLE BOY, AND HE WONDERED IF *THEY* ENJOYED PLAYING WITH DOGS AS MUCH AS I DID.

"I LEFT THEN, AND WHEN HE ASKED ME WHERE I WAS GOING, I TOLD HIM...

"...I TOLD HIM I WAS GOING TO WALK MY DAMN *BEAT.*"

TO WALK MY DAMN BEAT...

I DID WALK IT. TO PROVE A POINT TO THEM ALL. I DRAGGED MYSELF UP PARK ROW JUST IN TIME TO HEAR *TWO GUNSHOTS.*

TO COME AROUND THE CORNER AND SEE THAT *SAME LITTLE BOY* WHO'D BEEN SO HOPEFUL JUST THAT AFTERNOON, CRYING OVER HIS PARENTS' BODIES. AND I COULDN'T FACE HIM. I COULDN'T FACE HIM, BATMAN.

THE NEXT DAY, AN ANONYMOUS PRESENT CAME FOR MY LITTLE GIRL WHILE I WAS AT THE HOSPITAL. A PITBULL PUPPY. OF COURSE, IT WAS MEANT AS A *REMINDER.*

SO I WEAR THIS COAT AS A REMINDER TO *THEM.* TO LET THEM KNOW I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN WHAT HAPPENED, EITHER.

THAT'S WHAT I TELL *MYSELF* AT LEAST. BUT SOMETIMES...

...SOMETIMES I WONDER IF I DON'T WEAR IT OUT OF *SHAME.*

BUT NOW, FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THAT NIGHT, I FEEL THAT MAYBE THERE'S A *CHANCE...*

...BECAUSE THAT LITTLE BOY, BRUCE WAYNE, HE CAME BACK TO *FIGHT* FOR THIS CITY. AND NOW *YOU'RE* HERE, TOO--YOU'RE *CHANGING* THINGS. AND TOGETHER--

STOP, LIEUTENANT.

NO. I *SEE* YOU, BATMAN. I SEE WHAT YOU'RE ABOUT AS CLEAR AS--

NO. STOP THE *BOAT.*

WHAT? BUT MY...

...GLASSES.

OH, CRAP...

KRRRRRR

SIR?

RIGHT HERE, ALFRED. I'M JUST PUTTING THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON THE JAMMER.

WERE YOU ABLE TO IDENTIFY THE CHEMICAL RESIDUE HELFERN'S HAND LEFT ON MY CLOTHES?

IT'S A MIXTURE OF PHOSPHATES AND CALCIUM, MOSTLY. MULTIPLE SOURCES OF *DNA*, ALL OF IT CORRUPTED AND UNIDENTIFIABLE. SO ULTIMATELY, THE RESIDUE PLACES HELFERN'S LAB IN--

TOO MANY PLACES TO COUNT. THAT RESIDUE IS AS COMMON AS MUD. DAMN.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, I'VE BROUGHT YOU BREAKFAST, SIR. I'M AFRAID THAT WHILE ST. WILLIAM CULINARY SCHOOL IN LONDON OFFERED AN EXTENSIVE CURRICULUM, THERE WAS NO CLASS IN "BLENDER."

THESE SHAKES HAVE ALL I NEED, ALFRED. CALORICALLY, NUTRITIONALLY. WHEN I GET BACK IN THE MORNING YOU CAN FIX ME ANYTHING YOU WANT FOR BREAKFAST.

LATELY WHEN YOU COME BACK IN THE MORNING, I END UP SERVING YOU BREAKFAST THROUGH AN IV. ALL THOSE KISSES AND HUGS FROM GOTHAM.

→*YAWN*← I'M JUST GOING TO HAVE TO GET BETTER AT MY JOB, I GUESS.

OR YOU MIGHT CONSIDER--

CONSIDER WHAT, ALFRED?

YOU MIGHT CONSIDER LETTING SOME OF US *HELP* YOU.

SOME OF *US?*

LIEUTENANT JAMES GORDON
MARITAL STATUS: SEPARATED
CHILDREN: BARBARA, 15 JAMES JR.
CRIMES SOLVED: 28
CURR[illegible]
DAD: 18

LOOK AT HOW MANY CASES HE'S BROUGHT TO BEAR BY HIMSELF. WITHOUT HELP FROM THE DEPARTMENT. OR RATHER, IN SPITE OF--

I'LL TAKE IT UNDER ADVISEMENT, ALFRED. FOR RIGHT NOW, I HAVE *YOU.* THAT'S ENOUGH HELP.

THAT'S JUST IT, THOUGH, SIR. YOU DON'T *LET* ME HELP. YOU DON'T *TRUST* ME TO. THERE ISN'T A THING I DO FOR YOU THAT YOUR GENIUS MIND COULDN'T FIGURE OUT SOME WAY OF DOING *REMOTELY.*

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU'RE HERE WITH ME, IN THE DAMN *BATCAVE.* IF I DIDN'T TRUST YOU, WHY THE HELL WOULD I KEEP YOU AROUND?

LIEUTENANT JAMES GORDON
MARITAL STATUS: SEPARATE
CHILDREN: BARBARA, 15 JAM
CRIMES SOLVED: 28
CURRENT CASEL 8
COLD CASES: 12

YOU KNOW, BRUCE, DURING THOSE YEARS YOU WERE GONE, THERE WAS A MOMENT WHEN YOU WERE SPOTTED.

WORD CAME IN THAT YOU WERE LIVING WITH A NOMADIC PEOPLE IN THE NIGERIAN DESERT, A PEOPLE KNOWN FOR THE GRUELING TRAINING THROUGH WHICH THEY PUT THEIR WARRIORS.

YOUR *UNCLE PHILIP* SAID HE WAS GOING TO BRING YOU HOME.

I USED MY OLD MILITARY CONTACTS TO SEND WORD AHEAD OF HIM FROM GUSAU.

I THOUGHT IF I GOT TO YOU BEFORE PHILIP, YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO *RUN.*

I GAVE EVERYTHING I HAD, ALL MY SAVINGS TO PAY FOR A COURIER. HE SAID HE'D BRING A PHONE TO THE TRIBE AND HAND IT TO YOU. I REMEMBER WAITING UPSTAIRS FOR YOU TO COME ON THE LINE...

...I COULD BARELY BREATHE, I WAS SO ANXIOUS TO SPEAK WITH YOU. I CALLED YOUR NAME, BUT THEN...

...SILENCE.

I TOLD MYSELF THE COURIER HAD SIMPLY LIED TO GET THE PAYMENT. BUT TRUTHFULLY, I KNEW. I *KNEW* YOU WERE LIKELY THERE, ON THE OTHER END, AND DIDN'T TAKE THE CALL.

I UNDERSTOOD, THOUGH. AFTER ALL, WHEN YOU WERE HERE, IT WAS MY JOB TO REPORT YOUR BEHAVIOR TO YOUR PARENTS. TO CALL THE TRUANT OFFICE WHEN YOU SNUCK OFF INTO THE CITY.

WHY WOULD YOU THINK I'D TRY TO *HELP* YOU RUN THIS TIME?

BUT WATCHING YOU THESE PAST WEEKS, I SEE THAT WASN'T THE CASE. YOU WEREN'T SUSPICIOUS OF ME BECAUSE I'D TURNED YOU IN OTHER TIMES IN THE PAST.

AND YOU'RE NOT SUSPICIOUS OF GORDON BECAUSE YOU THINK HE'S CROOKED.

YOU'RE *ANGRY* WITH US. ALL OF US.

YOU WERE A LITTLE BOY, ALL ALONE IN THAT ALLEY, AND NO ONE WAS THERE FOR YOU. NOT ME, NOT GORDON, NOT YOUR FELLOW GOTHAMITES...

...AND NOT *BATMAN.*

NOW, I'M VERY PROUD OF WHAT YOU'VE BECOME, SIR. BUT I FEAR THAT DEEP DOWN, YOU'RE DOING THIS ALL, BEING BATMAN, AS SOME WAY OF *PUNISHING* US--

PUNISHING YOU? HOW WOULD I BE PUNISHING YOU?

"BY MAKING US *BEAR WITNESS.*

"YOU ASKED ME WHY YOU KEEP ME HERE, AND I BELIEVE IT'S NOT TO WATCH *OVER* YOU, SIR, BUT TO *WATCH.* TO WATCH YOU DO WHAT I COULDN'T.

"YOU'RE MAKING US *ALL* WATCH. THE WHOLE CITY. YOU SHUT US OUT AND PUNISH US NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, AS YOU GO OUT THERE AND PROTECT THOSE WE CAN'T.

"LISTEN WHEN I SAY--WE ARE HERE FOR YOU *NOW,* MASTER BRUCE.

"WE SEE YOU OUT THERE AND WE WANT TO *HELP.*"

"BUT IF YOU DO THAT, SIR, IF YOU LET THE *PAST* DRIVE BATMAN, HIS SCARS, HE BECOMES SOMETHING DARK, A DEMON OF *VENGEANCE.* NOT A CREATURE OF JUSTICE OR HOPE. AND HE WILL NOT LAST, NOR WILL *YOU.*

"I HAVE TO GO, ALFRED..."

"...BECAUSE I KNOW WHERE *HELFERN* IS."

BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND, SIR. THE CATACOMBS ARE AN HISTORIC TOURIST ATTRACTION. I HAVE TROUBLE BELIEVING--

IT'S NOT AN ATTRACTION IN A *BLACKOUT.*

YOU SAW IT YOURSELF. THE *DNA* IN THE RESIDUE FROM HELFERN'S HANDPRINTS, IT WAS FROM MULTIPLE SOURCES, BUT TOO ***CORRUPTED*** FOR IDENTIFICATION.

BUT THAT SORT OF CORRUPTION COMES FROM EXPOSURE TO THE ATMOSPHERE OVER TIME. AND THE DUST IT'S IN, PHOSPHATE AND CALCIUM--

OLD BONES... STILL, THAT SORT OF MIXTURE IS QUITE COMMON.

THE CATACOMBS WERE BUILT TO PROTECT THE CITY FROM THE MARSHY, DISEASE-RIDDEN CEMETERIES OF EIGHTEENTH CENTURY PARISHES.

BUT THEY BECAME SO POPULAR SO FAST THAT SOON FAMILIES WERE ONLY ALLOWED TO DONATE A SINGLE BONE FROM THEIR LOVED ONES FOR PRESERVATION.

MY POINT IS, THE WHOLE PLACE IS A ***TRIBUTE*** TO THE IDEA THAT THE ESSENCE OF A PERSON CAN BE CARRIED ON THROUGH HIS OR HER ***BONES.***

WHICH WOULD MAKE THIS A PRETTY DRAMATIC LOCATION FOR HELFERN'S LAB.

AND HELFERN DOES SEEM TO HAVE A FLAIR FOR THE ***DRAMATIC.***

SAYS THE YOUNG MAN IN THE BAT-SUIT.

AND HERE WE GO.

I'M IN.

DO YOU SEE ANYTHING NOTABLE?

I'M NOT SURE YET.

YO MOON

WHAT?

WHAT IS IT, SIR?

OH, NO.

NO, NO, NO...

SIR! SIR, WHAT'S GOING ON?

I WAS WRONG ABOUT HIM! HELFERN... HE'S NOT OUT FOR **REVENGE!** THE KILLINGS... THEY'RE JUST A **SMOKESCREEN.**

A SMOKESCREEN FOR W--

SOMETHING MUCH WORSE. HE'S...HE'S BEEN STEALING ***MATERIAL*** FROM THE SCIENTISTS HE'S KILLED! MATERIAL TO MAKE SOME KIND OF... ***DOOMSDAY MACHINE.***

HE'S GOING TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE WHOLE CITY, ALFRED. IN JUST HOURS, HE'S GOING TO BRING IT TO ITS KNEES!

HELFERN? BUT HE SEEMED--

NO, NOT HELFERN. THE MAN HE'S WORKING FOR. THE ***REAL*** MONSTER HERE. THE ONE I UNDERESTIMATED...

ZZZ

PLEASE... GO ON...

NYGMA.

THAT'S RIGHT, BATMAN! YOU'VE BEEN MAKING QUITE THE IMPRESSION ON THE CITY! BUT I'M AFRAID I'M ABOUT TO MAKE AN EVEN **BIGGER** ONE.

NYGMA, LISTEN TO ME. DON'T DO THIS. ***THOUSANDS*** OF PEOPLE COULD ***DIE!***

...THAT'S MY WHOLE POINT, BATMAN. CAN'T YOU SEE? ENTROPY HAS SPED UP! THE WORLD IS DYING. THE SEAS ARE RISING. RESOURCES ARE DWINDLING. THE POWERFUL ARE GETTING MORE SO...

...WE ALL FEEL IT. WE ALL **KNOW** IT. THE ONLY WEAPON ANY OF US HAS AGAINST THE TIDE IS INTELLIGENCE. ***SMARTS...!***

...SO WHY NOT SPEED THINGS UP EVEN ***MORE,*** THOSE FORCES OF DESTRUCTION, AND MAKE PEOPLE GET SMART. GET SMART OR ***DIE!***

AND UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU, DETECTIVE, YOU WEREN'T SMART ENOUGH TO CUT IT THIS TIME. THAT IS HOW YOU THINK OF YOURSELF, ISN'T IT? AS A **DETECTIVE?**

AND DETECTIVE NOVELS, WELL, THEY'RE LIKE **RIDDLES** AFTER ALL. BATTLES OF WITS. EMPIRICAL RIDDLES, SURE. NOT AS PURE, BUT STILL, THEY QUALIFY.

KKKK

THE DETECTIVE, HE ADDS UP ALL THE CLUES AND REPAIRS THE STANDARD DESIGN OF THINGS.

BUT IN THIS CASE, THE DETECTIVE, WELL... →heh←

...SO IT'S TIME TO BURY SAID DETECTIVE DOWN HERE WITH THE FALLEN MARTYRS. BECAUSE IN A MATTER OF MINUTES, GOTHAM CITY WILL BELONG TO ME. EVERY FIBER OF IT...

...ITS BONES...

...ITS BLOOD...

...THE VERY AIR IT BREATHES. AND I HAVE A MUCH MORE DEADLY RIDDLE FOR THE CITY THAN THE ONE YOU JUST FAILED TO SOLVE.

SO LET'S CLOSE THE CHAPTER ON THIS LITTLE DETECTIVE NOVEL, SHALL WE, BATMAN...?

...BECAUSE THIS IS WHERE YOUR PART OF THE STORY **ENDS.**

ZERO YEAR

DARK CITY

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BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

NEXT: A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE OF BATMAN ETERNAL!

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CHANNEL 52 INVESTIGATIVE REPORT!

COMING UP NEXT ON *CHANNEL 52*--A SPECIAL REPORT ON AMERICA'S SAFEST CITY! WHAT'S GOING ON IN GOTHAM CITY? THE USUAL GOOD TIMES AND NO CRIMES!

MAYOR COBBLEPOT ANNOUNCES ALL PUBLIC PARKS NOW DEEMED SAFE ENOUGH TO BE LEFT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC 24 HOURS A DAY! WE HAVE A SPECIAL INTERVIEW WITH BATMAN AND HIS LOVELY PARTNER CATBIRD ON THE IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING TO READ! AND THE SUDDEN RASH OF SUICIDES WE REPORTED TURNS OUT TO BE NOTHING WE SHOULD WORRY ABOUT!

YOU'RE WATCHING CHANNEL 52

ZONE